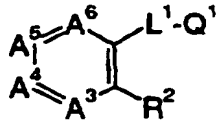
What is claimed is:

1. A compound of formula I



I

(or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof) wherein:

A^3, A^4, A^5 and A^6, together with the two carbons to which they are attached, complete a substituted benzene in which A^3 is CR^3, A^4 is CR^4, A^5 is CR^5, and A^6 is CR^6; wherein

R^3 is hydrogen, methyl, methoxy, fluoro, chloro or carboxy;

one of R^4 and R^5 is hydrogen, (1-4C)alkyl, halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, R^fO-, $R^fO_2CCH_2O-$, $HO(CH_2)_aO-$ (in which a is 2, 3 or 4), R^fO_2C-, $R^fO_2CCH_2-$, R^gNH-, R^hSO_2-, hydroxymethyl, formyl, cyano, acetyl, 1-hydroxyethyl, 1-(hydroxyimino)ethyl, 1-(methoxyimino)-ethyl, methylthio or $R^fO_2C(CH_2)_2-$;

the other of R^4 and R^5 is hydrogen; and

R^6 is hydrogen, methyl, fluoro, chloro or methoxy;

in which R^f is hydrogen, (1-4C)alkyl or benzyl; R^g is hydrogen or R^hSO_2-; and R^h is (1-4C)alkyl or dimethylamino;

or each of R^3, R^4 and R^6 is hydrogen; and R^5 is vinyl, 2-cyanovinyl, 2-({(1-2C)alkoxy}carbonyl)vinyl or R^a in which R^a is phenyl (which is unsubstituted or bears one or more substituents independently selected from halo, methyl, methoxy and hydroxy) or heteroaryl (which heteroaryl is a 5-membered aromatic ring which includes one to four heteroatoms selected from sulfur, oxygen and nitrogen or is a 6-membered aromatic ring which includes one to three nitrogen atoms, wherein the heteroaryl is attached at carbon

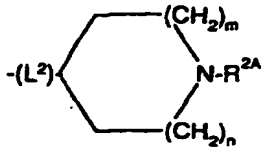
and may bear one or more methyl substituents on carbon or nitrogen);

L^1 is -CO-NH- such that $-L^1-Q^1$ is $-CO-NH-Q^1$;

Q^1 is 2-pyridinyl (which bears a methyl, methoxy, methylthio, fluoro or chloro substituent at the 5-position), 3-pyridinyl (which bears a methyl, fluoro or chloro substituent at the 6-position), 2-pyrimidinyl (which may bear a methyl, fluoro or chloro substituent at the 5-position) or 3-pyridazinyl (which may bear a methyl, fluoro or chloro substituent at the 6-position);

R^2 is $-L^2-Q^2$ in which $-L^2-$ is -NH-CO-, -NH-CO-X-, -NH-CO-O-X-, -NH-CO-NH-X-, $-NH-CH_2-$, $-NH-C(CH_3)H-$, $-N(CH_3)-CH_2-$ or $-O-CH_2-$; and Q^2 is Q^{2A}, Q^{2B}, Q^{2C}, Q^{2D}, Q^{2E} or Q^{2E} wherein X is a single bond or methylene and the values of L^2 and Q^2 are together selected from $-NH-CO-X-Q^{2A}$, $-NH-CO-O-X-Q^{2A}$, $-NH-CO-NH-X-Q^{2A}$, $-NH-CH_2-Q^{2A}$, $-NH-C(CH_3)H-Q^{2A}$, $-N(CH_3)-CH_2-Q^{2A}$, $-O-CH_2-Q^{2A}$, $-NH-CO-X-Q^{2B}$, $-NH-CO-Q^{2C}$, $-NH-CO-Q^{2D}$, $-NH-CO-Q^{2E}$ and $-NH-CO-Q^{2F}$ in which:

Q^{2A} (showing the L^2 to which it is attached) is



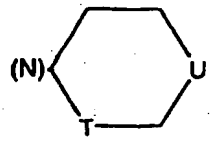
in which

each of m and n independently is 0 or 1, or m is 2 and n is 1, and

R^{2A} is hydrogen, t-butyl, methylsulfonyl, $-CHR^VR^Z$, $-CHR^WR^X$, or 4-pyridinyl (which is unsubstituted or bears a substituent R^V at the 2- or 3-position) wherein

R^V is methyl, hydroxymethyl, {(1-2C)alkoxy}carbonyl; cyano, carbamoyl, thiocarbamoyl, or N-hydroxyamidino;

each of R^W and R^X independently is hydrogen or (1-3C)normal alkyl; or $-CHR^WR^X$ is 2-indanyl or (showing the nitrogen to which it is attached) is



in which T is a single bond or methylene and U is methylene, ethylene, oxy, $-S(O)_q-$ (wherein q is 0, 1 or 2) or imino (which may bear a methyl substituent), or T is ethan-1,1-diyl and U is a single bond or methylene;

R^Y is hydrogen or methyl; and

R^Z is isopropyl, t-butyl, (3-6C)cycloalkyl, phenyl (which is unsubstituted or bears one or more substituents independently selected from halo, methyl, methoxy and hydroxy), 4-quinolinyl or heteroaryl (which heteroaryl is a 5-membered aromatic ring which includes one to four heteroatoms selected from sulfur, oxygen and nitrogen or is a 6-membered aromatic ring which includes one to three nitrogen atoms, wherein the heteroaryl is attached at carbon and may bear one or more methyl substituents on carbon or nitrogen);

or R^{2A} is $-L^b-CH_2-R^b$ in which $-L^b-$ is a direct bond, $-CH_2-$, $-C(CH_3)H-$ or $-CH_2-CH_2-$; and R^b is carboxy, ((1-2C)alkoxy)carbonyl, cyano, carbamoyl or trifluoromethyl;

or R^{2A} is $-CO-R^c$ in which R^c is hydrogen, (1-3C)alkyl, ((1-2C)alkoxy)carbonyl-$(CH_2)_c-$ (in which c is 1 or 2), phenyl (which is unsubstituted or bears one or more substituents independently selected from halo, methyl, methoxy and hydroxy), heteroaryl (which heteroaryl is a 5-membered aromatic ring which includes one to four heteroatoms selected from sulfur, oxygen and nitrogen or is

a 6-membered aromatic ring which includes one to three nitrogen atoms, wherein the heteroaryl is attached at carbon and may bear one or more methyl substituents on carbon or nitrogen) or $-NR^dR^e$ in which each of R^d and R^e is independently hydrogen, methyl or ethyl, or $-NR^dR^e$ is pyrrolidino, piperidino, morpholino or thiomorpholino;

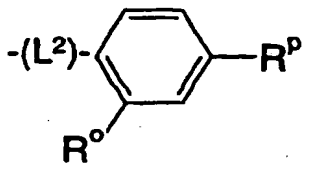
Q^{2B} is 1-piperazinyl which bears at the 4-position the group R^{2A} (defined as above);

Q^{2C} is 3,4-didehydropiperidin-4-yl which bears at the 1-position the group R^{2A} (defined as above);

Q^{2D} is cyclohexyl which bears at the 4-position the group $-NR^sR^t$ in which each of R^s and R^t independently is hydrogen or methyl or R^s and R^t together are trimethylene or tetramethylene;

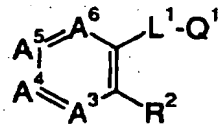
Q^{2E} is 1-piperidinyl which bears at the 4-position the group $-NR^sR^t$ (defined as above); and

Q^{2F} (showing the L^2 to which it is attached) is



in which R^o is hydrogen, halo, (1-6C)alkyl, hydroxy, (1-4C)alkoxy, benzyloxy or (1-4C)alkylthio; and R^p is acetylamino, 1-hydroxyethyl, 1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl, 1-methoxy-1-methylethyl, 4-piperidinyl, 4-pyridinyl, dimethylaminosulfonyl or $-J-R^q$ in which J is a single bond, methylene, carbonyl, oxy, $-S(O)_q-$ (wherein q is 0, 1 or 2), or $-NR^r-$ (wherein R^r is hydrogen or methyl); and R^q is (1-6C)alkyl, phenyl, 3-pyridyl or 4-pyridyl; or $-NR^qR^r$ is pyrrolidino.

2. The compound of formula I as claimed in Claim 1



I

(or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof) wherein:

A^3, A^4, A^5 and A^6, together with the two carbons to which they are attached, complete a substituted benzene in which A^3 is CR^3, A^4 is CR^4, A^5 is CR^5, and A^6 is CR^6; wherein

R^3 is hydrogen, methyl, fluoro, chloro or carboxy;

one of R^4 and R^5 is hydrogen, (1-4C)alkyl, halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, R^fO-, $R^fO_2CCH_2O$-, $HO(CH_2)_aO$- (in which a is 2, 3 or 4), R^fO_2C-, $R^fO_2CCH_2$-, R^gNH- or R^hSO_2-;

the other of R^4 and R^5 is hydrogen; and

R^6 is hydrogen, methyl, fluoro, chloro or methoxy;

in which R^f is hydrogen, (1-4C)alkyl or benzyl; R^g is hydrogen or R^hSO_2-; and R^h is (1-4C)alkyl or dimethylamino;

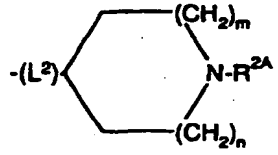
L^1 is -CO-NH- such that $-L^1-Q^1$ is -CO-NH-Q^1;

Q^1 is 2-pyridinyl (which bears a methyl, methoxy, methylthio, fluoro or chloro substituent at the 5-position), 3-pyridinyl (which bears a methyl, fluoro or chloro substituent at the 6-position), 2-pyrimidinyl (which may bear a methyl, fluoro or chloro substituent at the 5-position) or 3-pyridazinyl (which may bear a methyl, fluoro or chloro substituent at the 6-position);

R^2 is $-L^2-Q^2$ in which $-L^2-$ is -NH-CO-, -NH-CO-X-, -NH-CO-O-X-, -NH-CO-NH-X-, -NH-CH_2- or -O-CH_2-; and Q^2 is Q^{2A}, Q^{2B}, Q^{2C}, Q^{2D}, Q^{2E} or Q^{2F} wherein X is a single bond or methylene and the values of L^2 and Q^2 are together selected from -NH-CO-X-Q^{2A}, -NH-CO-O-X-Q^{2A}, -NH-CO-NH-X-Q^{2A},

$-NH-CH_2-Q^{2A}$, $-O-CH_2-Q^{2A}$, $-NH-CO-X-Q^{2B}$, $-NH-CO-Q^{2C}$, $-NH-CO-Q^{2D}$, $-NH-CO-Q^{2E}$ and $-NH-CO-Q^{2F}$ in which:

Q^{2A} (showing the L^2 to which it is attached) is



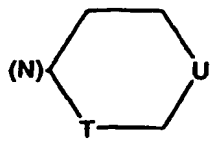
in which

each of m and n independently is 0 or 1, and

R^{2A} is hydrogen, t-butyl, methylsulfonyl, $-CHR^YR^Z$, $-CHR^WR^X$, or 4-pyridinyl (which is unsubstituted or bears a substituent R^V at the 2- or 3-position) wherein

R^V is methyl, hydroxymethyl, {(1-2C)alkoxy}carbonyl; cyano, carbamoyl, thiocarbamoyl, or N-hydroxyamidino;

each of R^W and R^X independently is hydrogen or (1-3C)normal alkyl; or $-CHR^WR^X$ is 2-indanyl or (showing the nitrogen to which it is attached) is



in which T is a single bond or methylene and U is methylene, ethylene, oxy, $-S(O)_q-$ (wherein q is 0, 1 or 2) or imino (which may bear a methyl substituent), or T is ethan-1,1-diyl and U is a single bond or methylene;

R^Y is hydrogen or methyl; and

R^Z is isopropyl, t-butyl, (3-6C)cycloalkyl, phenyl (which is unsubstituted or bears one or more substituents independently selected from halo, methyl, methoxy and hydroxy), 4-quinolinyl or heteroaryl (which heteroaryl is a

5-membered aromatic ring which includes one to four heteroatoms selected from sulfur, oxygen and nitrogen or is a 6-membered aromatic ring which includes one to three nitrogen atoms, wherein the heteroaryl is attached at carbon and may bear one or more methyl substituents on carbon or nitrogen);

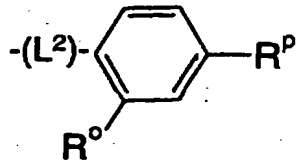
Q^{2B} is 1-piperazinyl which bears at the 4-position the group R^{2A} (defined as above);

Q^{2C} is 3,4-didehydropiperidin-4-yl which bears at the 1-position the group R^{2A} (defined as above);

Q^{2D} is cyclohexyl which bears at the 4-position the group $-NR^sR^t$ in which each of R^s and R^t independently is hydrogen or methyl or R^s and R^t together are trimethylene or tetramethylene;

Q^{2E} is 1-piperidinyl which bears at the 4-position the group $-NR^sR^t$ (defined as above); and

Q^{2F} (showing the L^2 to which it is attached) is



in which R^o is hydrogen, halo, (1-6C)alkyl, hydroxy, (1-4C)alkoxy, benzyloxy or (1-4C)alkylthio; and R^p is acetylamino, 1-hydroxyethyl, 1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl, 1-methoxy-1-methylethyl, 4-piperidinyl, 4-pyridinyl, dimethylaminosulfonyl or $-J-R^q$ in which J is a single bond, methylene, carbonyl, oxy, $-S(O)_q-$ (wherein q is 0, 1 or 2), or $-NR^r-$ (wherein R^r is hydrogen or methyl); and R^q is (1-6C)alkyl, phenyl, 3-pyridyl or 4-pyridyl.

3. A compound of formula I (or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof) as claimed in Claim 2 wherein:

A^3, A^4, A^5 and A^6, together with the two carbons to which they are attached, complete a substituted benzene in which A^3 is CR^3, A^4 is CR^4, A^5 is CR^5, and A^6 is CR^6; wherein

R^3 is hydrogen;

one of R^4 and R^5 is hydrogen, methyl, fluoro, chloro, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, R^fO_2C- or R^gNH-;

the other of R^4 and R^5 is hydrogen; and

R^6 is hydrogen;

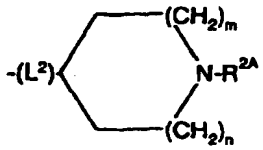
in which R^f is hydrogen, (1-4C)alkyl or benzyl; R^g is hydrogen or R^hSO_2-; and R^h is (1-4C)alkyl or dimethylamino;

L^1 is -CO-NH- such that $-L^1-Q^1$ is -CO-NH-Q^1;

Q^1 is 2-pyridinyl (which bears a methyl, fluoro or chloro substituent at the 5-position), 3-pyridinyl (which bears a methyl, fluoro or chloro substituent at the 6-position), 2-pyrimidinyl (which may bear a methyl, fluoro or chloro substituent at the 5-position) or 3-pyridazinyl (which may bear a methyl, fluoro or chloro substituent at the 6-position);

R^2 is $-L^2-Q^2$ in which $-L^2-$ is -NH-CO-, -NH-CO-X-, -NH-CO-O-X-, -NH-CO-NH-X-, -NH-CH_2- or -O-CH_2-; and Q^2 is Q^{2A}, Q^{2B}, Q^{2C}, Q^{2D}, Q^{2E} or Q^{2F} wherein X is a single bond or methylene and the values of L^2 and Q^2 are together selected from -NH-CO-X-Q^{2A}, -NH-CO-O-X-Q^{2A}, -NH-CO-NH-X-Q^{2A}, -NH-CH_2-Q^{2A}, -O-CH_2-Q^{2A}, -NH-CO-X-Q^{2B}, -NH-CO-Q^{2C}, -NH-CO-Q^{2D}, -NH-CO-Q^{2E} and -NH-CO-Q^{2F} in which:

Q^{2A} (showing the L^2 to which it is attached) is



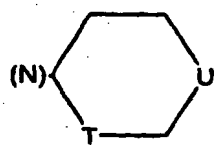
in which

each of m and n independently is 0 or 1, and

R^{2A} is hydrogen, $-CHR^YR^Z$, $-CHR^WR^X$, or 4-pyridinyl (which is unsubstituted or bears a substituent R^V at the 2- or 3-position) wherein

R^V is methyl, hydroxymethyl, {(1-2C)alkoxy}carbonyl; cyano, carbamoyl, thiocarbamoyl, or N-hydroxyamidino;

each of R^W and R^X independently is hydrogen or (1-3C)normal alkyl; or $-CHR^WR^X$ is 2-indanyl or (showing the nitrogen to which it is attached) is



in which T is a single bond or methylene and U is methylene, oxy, thioxy or imino (which may bear a methyl substituent), or T is ethan-1,1-diyl and U is a single bond or methylene;

R^Y is hydrogen or methyl; and

R^Z is isopropyl, t-butyl, (3-6C)cyclopropyl, phenyl (which is unsubstituted or bears one or more substituents independently selected from halo, methyl, methoxy and hydroxy), 4-quinolinyl or heteroaryl (which heteroaryl is a 5-membered aromatic ring which includes one to four heteroatoms selected from sulfur, oxygen and nitrogen or is a 6-membered aromatic ring which includes one to three nitrogen atoms, wherein the heteroaryl is attached at carbon and may bear one or more methyl substituents on carbon or nitrogen);

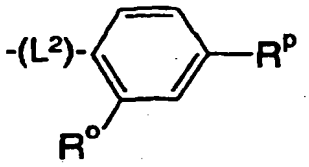
Q^{2B} is 1-piperazinyl which bears at the 4-position the group R^{2A} (defined as above);

Q^{2C} is 3,4-didehydropiperidin-4-yl which bears at the 1-position the group R^{2A} (defined as above);

Q^{2D} is cyclohexyl which bears at the 4-position the group $-NR^sR^t$ in which each of R^s and R^t independently is hydrogen or methyl or R^s and R^t together are trimethylene or tetramethylene;

Q^{2E} is 1-piperidinyl which bears at the 4-position the group $-NR^sR^t$ (defined as above); and

Q^{2F} (showing the L^2 to which it is attached) is



in which R^o is hydrogen and R^p is acetylamino, 1-hydroxyethyl, 1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl, 1-methoxy-1-methylethyl, 4-piperidinyl, 4-pyridinyl, dimethylaminosulfonyl or $-J-R^q$ in which J is a single bond, methylene, carbonyl, oxy, $-S(O)_q-$ (wherein q is 0, 1 or 2), or $-NR^r-$ (wherein R^r is hydrogen or methyl); and R^q is (1-6C)alkyl, phenyl, 3-pyridyl or 4-pyridyl.

4. The compound of Claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein halo is fluoro, chloro, bromo or iodo; (1-2C)alkyl is methyl or ethyl; (1-3C)normal alkyl is methyl, ethyl or propyl; (1-4C)alkyl is methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, or t-butyl; (1-6C)alkyl is methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, pentyl or hexyl; (3-6C)cycloalkyl is cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopenytyl or cyclohexyl.

5. The compound of any of Claims 1-4 wherein Q^1 is 5-chloropyridin-2-yl, 5-fluoropyridin-2-yl, or 6-chloropyridazin-3-yl.

6. The compound of any of Claims 1-5 wherein R^2 is (1-isopropylpiperidin-4-ylcarbonyl)amino, (1-cyclohexylpiperidin-4-ylcarbonyl)amino, (4-isopropylpiperazin-1-ylcarbonyl)amino, [1-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl)piperidin-4-ylcarbonyl]amino, [4-(1-pyrrolidinyl)piperidin-1-ylcarbonyl]amino, [1-(4-pyridinyl)piperidin-4-ylmethyl]amino, [1-(2-carboxypyridin-4-yl)piperidin-4-ylmethyl]amino, or [1-(2-methoxycarbonylpyridin-4-yl)-piperidin-4-ylmethyl]amino.

7. The compound as claimed in any of Claims 1-6 wherein each of R^3-R^6 is hydrogen.

8. The compound as claimed in any of Claims 1-6 wherein each of R^3, R^4 and R^6 is hydrogen and R^5 is chloro or fluoro.

9. The compound as claimed in any of Claims 1, 4, 5 and 6 wherein each of R^3, R^4 and R^6 is hydrogen and R^5 is R^a wherein R^a is phenyl, furanyl, thienyl, 2-isothiazolyl or pyridyl.

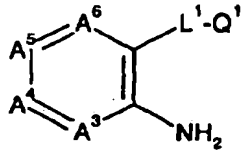
10. The pharmaceutically acceptable salt of a compound of formula I as claimed in any of Claims 1-9 which is an acid-addition salt made from a basic compound of formula I and an acid which provides a pharmaceutically acceptable anion or a salt which is made from an acidic compound of formula I and a base which provides a pharmaceutically acceptable cation.

11. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient, a novel compound of formula I (or a

pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof) as provided in any of Claims 1-10.

12. A process for preparing a compound of formula I (or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof) as provided in Claim 1 or 2 which is selected from

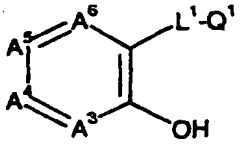
(A) for a compound of formula I in which $-L^2-Q^2$, is $-NH-CO-Q^2$, $-NH-CO-X-Q^2$, $-NH-CO-O-X-Q^2$ or $-NH-CO-NH-X-Q^2$, acylating an amine of formula II,



II

using a corresponding acid of formula $HO-CO-Q^2$, $HO-CO-X-Q^2$, $HO-CO-O-X-Q^2$, or $HO-CO-NH-X-Q^2$, or an activated derivative thereof;

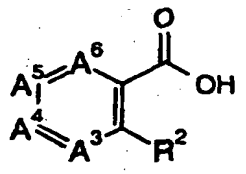
(B) for a compound of formula I in which $-L^2-Q^2$ is $-O-CH_2-Q^{2A}$, akylating a phenol of formula III



III

using a reagent of formula $Y-CH_2-Q^{2A}$ in which Y is a conventional leaving group;

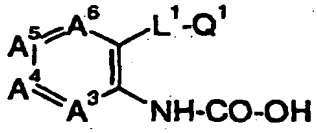
(C) acylating an amine of formula H_2N-Q^1, or a deprotonated derivative thereof, using an acid of formula IV, or an activated derivative thereof;



IV

(D) for a compound of formula I in which R^2 is $-NH-CH_2-Q^{2A}$, alkylating an amine of formula II directly, using a compound of formula $Y-CH_2-Q^{2A}$, or indirectly by reductive alkylation using an aldehyde of formula $Q^{2A}-CHO$;

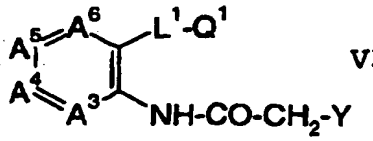
(E) for a compound of formula I in which R^2 is $-NH-CO-O-X-Q^{2A}$, or $-NH-CO-NH-X-Q^{2A}$, acylating an alcohol of formula $HO-X-Q^{2A}$ or an amine of formula NH_2-X-Q^{2A}, using an activated derivative of an acid of formula VI;



VI

(F) for a compound of formula I in which R^2 is $-NH-CO-X-Q^{2B}$ in which X is a single bond, acylating at the 1-position a piperazine of formula $H-Q^{2B}$, using an activated derivative of an acid of formula VI;

(G) for a compound of formula I in which R^2 is $-NH-CO-X-Q^{2B}$ in which X is methylene, alkylating at the 1-position a piperazine of formula $H-Q^{2B}$, using an alkylating agent of formula VII



VII

in which Y is a leaving group;

(H) for a compound of formula I in which R^{2A} is methylsulfonyl, substituting the amino nitrogen of a

corresponding compound of formula I in which R^{2A} is hydrogen using an activated derivative of methanesulfonic acid;

(I) for a compound of formula I in which R^{2A} is $-CHR^YR^Z$ or $-CHR^WR^X$, alkylating the amino nitrogen of a corresponding compound of formula I in which R^{2A} is hydrogen using an alkylating agent of formula $Y-CHR^YR^Z$ or $Y-CHR^WR^X$ or reductively alkylating the amine using a compound of formula R^Y-CO-R^Z or R^W-CO-R^X;

(J) for a compound of formula I in which R^{2A} is 4-pyridinyl (which is unsubstituted or bears a substituent R^V at the 2- or 3-position), substituting the amino nitrogen of a corresponding compound of formula I in which R^{2A} is hydrogen using a corresponding pyridine reagent bearing a leaving group Y at the 4-position;

(K) for a compound of formula I in which R^{2A} is 4-pyridinyl in which R^V is alkoxycarbonyl, esterifying a corresponding compound of formula I in which R^V is carboxy;

(L) for a compound of formula I in which R^{2A} is 4-pyridinyl in which R^V is hydroxymethyl, reducing the ester of a corresponding compound of formula I in which R^V is alkoxycarbonyl;

(M) for a compound of formula I in which R^{2A} is 4-pyridinyl in which R^V is carbamoyl, amidating the ester of a corresponding compound of formula I in which R^V is alkoxycarbonyl;

(N) for a compound of formula I in which R^{2A} is 4-pyridinyl in which R^V is thiocarbamoyl, adding H_2S to the nitrile of a corresponding compound of formula I in which R^V is cyano;

(O) for a compound of formula I in which R^{2A} is 4-pyridinyl in which R^V is N-hydroxyamidino, adding H_2NOH to the nitrile of a corresponding compound of formula I in which R^V is cyano;

(P) for a compound of formula I in which R^{2A} is 4-pyridinyl in which R^v is carboxy, decomposing the ester of a corresponding compound of formula I in which R^v is alkoxycarbonyl;

(Q) for a compound of formula I in which $-NR^sR^t$ is other than amino, alkylating a corresponding compound of formula I in which $-NR^sR^t$ is amino using a conventional method;

(R) for a compound of formula I which bears $-NR^sR^t$, reductively alkylating $H-NR^sR^t$ using a corresponding compound but in which the carbon to bear the $-NR^sR^t$ group bears an oxo group;

(S) for a compound of formula I in which R^p is 1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl, adding a methyl group to the carbonyl group of a corresponding compound of formula I in which R^p is acetyl using an organometallic reagent;

(T) for a compound of formula I in which R^p is 1-methoxy-1-methylethyl, treating a corresponding compound of formula I in which R^p is 1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl with methanol and an acid catalyst;

(U) for a compound of formula I in which R^4 or R^5 is amino, reducing the nitro group of a compound corresponding to a compound of formula I but in which R^4 or R^5 is nitro;

(V) for a compound of formula I in which R^4 or R^5 is R^gNH- and R^g is R^hSO_2-, substituting the amino group of a corresponding compound of formula I in which R^4 or R^5 is amino using an activated derivative of the sulfonic acid R^hSO_2-OH;

whereafter, for any of the above procedures, when a functional group is protected using a protecting group, removing the protecting group;

whereafter, for any of the above procedures, when a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of a compound of formula I is required, it is obtained by reacting the basic form of a

basic compound of formula I with an acid affording a physiologically acceptable counterion or the acidic form of an acidic compound of formula I with a base affording a physiologically acceptable counterion or by any other conventional procedure;

and wherein, unless otherwise specified, A^3-A^6, L^1, Q^1 and R^2 have any of the values defined in Claim 1 or 2.

13. A method of inhibiting factor Xa comprising administering to a mammal in need of treatment, a compound of formula I as provided in any of Claims 1-10.

14. The use of a factor Xa inhibiting compound of formula I substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any of the examples.

15. A novel compound of formula I substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any of the examples.

16. A process for preparing a novel compound of formula I substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any of the examples.